

(Mr. FEENEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### DEMOCRAT CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAJORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat leadership has led their party on a campaign against the Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), through baseless character assassinations and misleading attacks. It is time to start hearing the truth, though.

The media reported yet that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), a Democrat, disclosed in 2001 that a registered lobbyist paid for her trip to Puerto Rico, a trip the minority leader was also on, in clear violation of House rules.

On February 28, the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), publicly called for an investigation by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the majority leader. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) stated: "These are substantive allegations," that must be "fully investigated by the Ethics Committee."

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But so far there have been no calls for an investigation of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) or the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) by the rest of the Democrat leadership. Is this hypocrisy? Democrats want to apply the House rules, but they do not want to apply the rules to themselves. Let us see if the Democrats really care about ethics or if they are more interested in personal attacks.

I believe these developments are further evidence that the Democrats are not interested in taking a thorough, honest look into the allegations against the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY); all they want to do is obstruct the work of the House of Representatives.

Yesterday Republican leaders of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct agreed to impanel a formal investigation into the recent allegations regarding the majority leader, but Democrats flatly refused to allow the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to begin the work this year.

Instead of allowing the case to be heard in an appropriate venue, an investigation by the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Democrats are trying to use the media to launch a partisan, politically motivated attack against the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader, rather than giving the gentleman from Texas an appropriate opportunity to respond.

Majority Leader DELAY has said over and over that he has done nothing wrong, and has expressed his desire to publicly present and state his case. Indeed, he wants an ethics hearing to clear his good name and to keep ethics from being used for partisan, political purposes.

Appearing before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is the most appropriate venue for this to happen. The refusal to even allow the case to be heard before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is clear evidence that the Democrat leadership is not concerned about seeing this matter reviewed. They only want to use this situation to obstruct the legislative process.

It is a move carefully designed by partisan political hacks, carefully designed to achieve nothing more than purely partisan political gain. These actions obstruct legislation that the American people want.

So far under the majority leader's leadership, Republicans have passed a comprehensive energy policy, killed the death tax for small businesses and family-owned businesses, improved America's highways by passing a transportation bill, passed tort reform, passed bankruptcy reform, and is poised to modernize and strengthen our Social Security system.

Rather than effect change through elections, they have chosen, the Democrat leadership has chosen, to use partisan attacks and a conspiracy of character assassination to destroy the reputation of one of the most successful legislative leaders in this century and in the last century and, in fact, in congressional history.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more unethical than falsely accusing another human being in order to destroy that person's reputation. There is nothing more unethical, there is nothing more disgraceful than falsely accusing another human being. That is

what the Democrat leadership has done, that is what the minority leader and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) are doing. They are stonewalling the ethics process for partisan gain, and we will not stand for it.

We ask the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and the Democratic leadership to stop these attacks. Call off the dogs.

Mr. Speaker, we need a reasonable ethics process in this House. We need to say enough is enough when it comes to partisan political attacks. Let us move forward with the American people's agenda.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again it is an honor to not only address the House, but the American people, to make sure that this government stays within the realm of the responsibility that the American people have given us to come to this U.S. House of Representatives and this Congress to represent them and their needs and their family's needs.

Those great Americans that have worked their entire lives to save and be a part of the Social Security system, to make sure that we hold our promise to their well-being not only during their retirement years, but even those that are beneficiaries of those that have passed on.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader, has designated this hour for the 30-something Working Group. And every week we come to the floor to address not only the House, but we keep the American people up to date on what is happening regarding Social Security and the challenges they are facing with the ongoing effort not only by the President, but also by some Members on the majority side to privatize Social Security.

I can tell Members that we pride ourselves on making sure that we get not only accurate, but up-to-date information so we can share not only mainly with the Members of this Congress the importance of the reason why they need to stand up and represent their constituents.

I must say I am very pleased that a number of Democrats on this side of the aisle, and I do mean almost 110 percent, I will say there are many Democrats who are big, heavy supporters of Social Security and do not want to see it privatized. I believe we are 100 percent.

I believe, on the majority side, we have a few Members who are holding out and are saying they are not going to gamble with their constituents' future, their guaranteed retirement.

Last week we talked about the 48 million Americans that celebrate a Social Security benefit which is right